[1] The Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed supports the largest sockeye run in the continental United States.

[2] "The Pacific Northwest is simply this: wherever the salmon can get to." –Timothy Egen, The Good Rain.

[3] Cederholm, C.J., et. al. 2000. *Pacific Salmon and Wildlife - Ecological Contexts, Relationships, and Implications for Management*. Special Edition Technical Report, Prepared for D.H. Johnson and T.A. O'Neil, Managing Directors, Wildlife-Habitat Relationships in Oregon and Washington. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia WA.

[4] Chinook salmon were listed under the federal Endangered Species Act in March, 1999. Bull Trout, which are also present in our watershed, were listed under the Endangered Species Act in June, 1999.

[5] Kerwin, J. 2001. *Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Limiting Factors Report for the Cedar-Sammamish Basin (Water Resource Inventory Area 8).* Washington Conservation Commission. Olympia, WA.

[6] *Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Near Term Action Agenda for Salmon Habitat Conservation*, February, 2002.

[7] A 1999 US Geological Survey report summarizing 8 years of data collected in urban streams throughout King County found 23 pesticides present in water samples collected during storm events. Five of these pesticides exceeded recommended maximum concentrations set by the National Academy of Sciences. (Bortleson, G.C. and Davis, D.A., 1997. *Pesticides in Selected Small Streams in the Puget Sound Basin, 1987-1995*: US Geological Survey Fact Sheet 067-09.)

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WRIA 8
(Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed)
Key Messages:

Key Message #1: The Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed is a special place for people and for salmon.

1. There are **FEW OTHER PLACES ON EARTH** where people and salmon live together in such close proximity and in such abundance as they do in the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed.

2. Home to over 1.4 million people, **OURS IS THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED WATERSHED IN THE STATE**. The Green-Duwamish/Central Puget Sound Watershed, the state's second most populated, has less than half that amount—approximately 600,000 people.

3. The watershed contains more than **470 IDENTIFIED RIVERS AND STREAMS** as well as two major lakes. One of these lakes—Lake Washington—is the second largest natural lake in the state. The watershed also contains **24 MILES OF SALTWATER SHORELINES** and is home to numerous smaller lakes, wetlands, and forested areas.

4. The watershed is home to **4 SPECIES OF SALMON**, including:

   - chinook
   - coho
   - sockeye[1] (including kokanee, a land-locked sockeye)
   - steelhead

Salmon utilize the entire watershed, from the shorelines of Puget Sound, through the heavily urbanized "gateway" areas surrounding the locks and Lake Washington, to the Cascade mountains.

5. **HUNDREDS OF OTHER SPECIES** also reside in our watershed, including:

   - bull trout
   - mountain whitefish
   - cutthroat trout
   - freshwater mussels
   - river otters

Key Message #2: Caring for our land and water will help salmon, preserve our special Northwest lifestyle, and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

1. Salmon have utilized Northwest waterways for more than 10,000 years and remain a vital part of our cultural identity.[2] Additionally, they play a crucial role in the food web—**137 OTHER SPECIES** were found to have either direct or indirect relationships with salmon.[3]
2. Historically, **OVER 700 MILES OF HABITAT WAS AVAILABLE TO MIGRATING SALMON** in the watershed. Since European settlement, this figure has been substantially reduced. Much of the remaining accessible habitat has been degraded by human activities.
3. In order to survive, salmon need clean, cold and abundant water; healthy habitat; prey items; and refuge from predators and flood flows. Human activities in the watershed—including poor logging, agricultural, road-building and other development practices—have altered these conditions to the detriment of salmon.
4. Salmon conservation will only succeed if habitat improvements are made in all parts of the watershed—from the more protected middle reaches of the Cedar River where salmon spawn, to the more urbanized portions of the lower watershed which serve as important rearing and migratory corridors.
5. **TWO STOCKS OF SALMON IN THE WATERSHED ARE CURRENTLY LISTED AS "THREATENED" UNDER THE FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**.[4] The remaining 6 stocks are listed as "depressed" by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.
6. Local scientists have determined that six (6) factors are the major causes of salmon decline in our watershed. These include:
    1. Fish access and passage barriers
    2. Degradation of riparian conditions
    3. Altered hydrology/flow
    4. Poor water quality—temperature and other
    5. Loss of channel complexity/connectivity
    6. Increased sedimentation and altered sediment transport processes[5]

Key Message #3: Salmon recovery is a long-term job. Each person's individual actions brings us closer to healthy streams and salmon.

1. It took several generations for salmon populations to decline to their current levels, and it will take several more for them to recover to healthy, self-sustaining levels. **THE FUTURE OF SALMON IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST LIES IN THE HANDS OF TODAY'S GENERATION.**
2. **TWENTY-SEVEN (27) LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS** are working collectively to conserve salmon habitat in the watershed. Specifically, these governments and other stakeholders have developed a near-term strategy for protecting/conserving habitat[6], and are currently working on a long-term habitat conservation plan that should be completed by 2005. Other pieces of the salmon recovery "puzzle" in our watershed—including hatchery and harvest issues—are being addressed at the state and federal levels. The coordination of these efforts is complex and will take time.
3. **THERE ARE MANY ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE AS INDIVIDUALS** to make our homes and neighborhoods more salmon friendly. Examples include:
    - ***Reduce water consumption.*** By consuming less water, we leave more in our streams and rivers for salmon.
    - ***Use natural landscaping practices***. Planting native plants reduces our reliance on pesticides (which can pollute water bodies[7]) and reduces water consumption.
    - ***Minimize car travel and use public transportation***. Even the choices we make about how to travel to work can make a difference for salmon. Cars can increase pollutants in our waterways and require additional roads and maintenance activities—both of which can negatively impact salmon.
    - ***Volunteer!*** There are hundreds of volunteer opportunities designed to help salmon habitat in our watershed. Contact **Sally King** at sally.king@metrokc.gov or **206-296-4350** for more information.

Visit: **http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/watersheds/cedar-lkwa.htm** to learn more about salmon conservation efforts in the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed.